

**Applicant: Thomas Jung**  
**Serial No.: 09/743,545**  
**Amendment dated: September 9, 2003**  
**Reply to Office Action dated: June 9, 2003**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 20-31 and 33-38 remain in the application with claims 20 (apparatus) and claim 29 (method) being independent.

The rejections of claims 32 and 39 have been rendered moot by canceling these claims.

The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the prior art by expanding on the limitation that the entire box-shaped structure is an electrically conductive electrode completely surrounding the objects. The Kay et al. reference, on the other hand, utilizes electrically non-conductive end sheets 60, 60' that obstruct the discharge at the end plates (col. 9, line 11). Accordingly, the subject invention dispenses with the magnetic coils used in Kay et al. By use of the subject invention, the objects can be arranged in any orientation for processing to avoid irregularities due to orientation.

Since the references fail to suggest an electrode completely surrounding the object to react electrically with the object from all directions and to modify the references in search of such an arrangement would change the mode of operation of the references, the subject invention and claims specifying same are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is solicited.

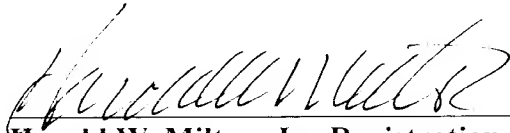
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If any fees are necessary for this filing, you are hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard. A duplicate of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted

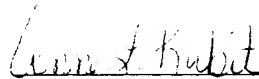
**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

September 9, 2003  
Date

  
**Harold W. Milton, Jr., Registration No. 22,180**  
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101  
39400 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151  
(248) 723-0352

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed **REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION** and **AMENDMENT** and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee", Mailing Label No. **EV238802041US** and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **September 9, 2003.**

  
Anne L. Kubit